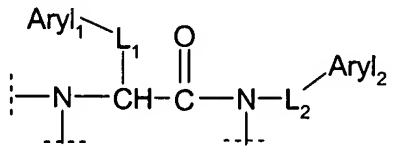
## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound comprising at least one moiety of the formula




wherein $L_1$ is a $C_1$-$C_4$ alkyl group and $L_2$ is a direct bond ~~are each a hydrocarbon group of from 1 to 6 carbons or a direct bond~~, and $Aryl_1$ and $Aryl_2$ are aryl, wherein each of $Aryl_1$ and $Aryl_2$ are substituted by at least one lipophilic group selected from the group consisting of

a) -Y-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

b) -Y-aryl;

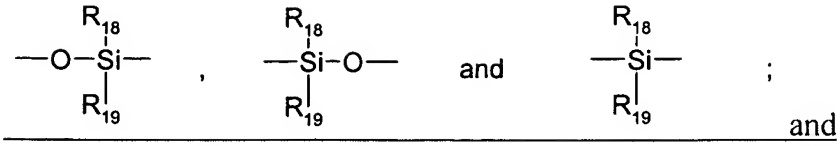
c) -Y-$C_{1-6}$ alkylaryl;

d) -Y-$C_{1-6}$-alkyl-$NR_7R_8$;

e) -Y-$C_{1-6}$-alkyl-W-$R_{20}$;

wherein

Y and W are, independently selected from the group consisting of -$CH_2$-, -O-, -N(H), -S-, $SO_2$-, -CON(H)-, -NHC(O)-, -NHCON(H)-, -$NHSO_2$-, -$SO_2$N(H)-, -C(O)-O-, -$NHSO_2$NH-, -O-CO-,




and

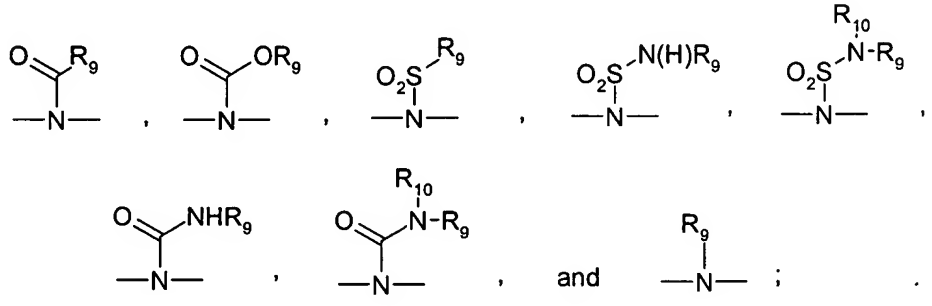
f) halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, carbamoyl, and carboxyl;

wherein

$R_{18}$ and $R_{19}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylaryl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, and $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxyaryl;

$R_{20}$ is selected from the group consisting of aryl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, and $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylaryl;

$R_7$, $R_8$, $R_9$ and $R_{10}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, aryl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, and $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylaryl; and wherein $R_7$ and $R_8$ may be taken together to form a ring having the formula $-(CH_2)_m-X-(CH_2)_n-$ bonded to the nitrogen atom to which $R_7$ and $R_8$ are attached, wherein m and n are, independently, 1, 2, 3, or 4; X is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, -O-, -S-, $-S(O_2)-$, -C(O)-, -CON(H)-, -NHC(O)-, -NHCON(H)-, $-NHSO_2-$, $-SO_2N(H)-$, -C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-, $-NHSO_2NH-$,




or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

wherein at least one of $Aryl_1$ and $Aryl_2$ is substituted with a lipophilic group of the formula -Y-$C_{1-6}$-alkyl-$NR_7R_8$.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound of Claim 1, wherein at least one of $Aryl_1$ or $Aryl_2$ is further substituted with ~~the~~ a lipophilic group ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylaryl, ~~or~~ and $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxyaryl.

Claims 3-10 (Canceled).

11. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents.

12. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of to claim 11, in the form of an oral dosage or parenteral dosage unit.

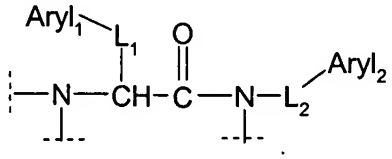
13. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein said compound is administered as a dose in a range from about 0.01 to 500 mg/kg of body weight per day.

14. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein said compound is administered as a dose in a range from about 0.1 to 200 mg/kg of body weight per day.

15. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein said compound is administered as a dose in a range from about 0.1 to 100 mg/kg of body weight per day.

Claims 16-28 (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) A method for the inhibition of the interaction of RAGE with its physiological ligands, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof, at least one compound comprising at least one moiety of the formula



wherein $L_1$ is a $C_1$-$C_4$ alkyl group and $L_2$ is a direct bond ~~are each a hydrocarbon group of from 1 to 6 carbons or a direct bond~~, and $Aryl_1$ and $Aryl_2$ are aryl, wherein each of $Aryl_1$ and $Aryl_2$ are substituted by at least one lipophilic group selected from the group consisting of

a) -Y-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

b) -Y-aryl;

c) -Y-$C_{1-6}$ alkylaryl;

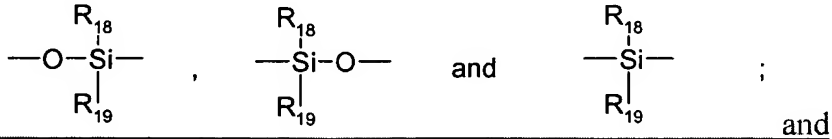
d) -Y-$C_{1-6}$-alkyl-$NR_7R_8$;

e) -Y-$C_{1-6}$-alkyl-W-$R_{20}$;

wherein

Y and W are, independently selected from the group consisting of

-$CH_2$-, -O-, -N(H), -S-, $SO_2$-, -CON(H)-, -NHC(O)-, -NHCON(H)-, -$NHSO_2$-, -$SO_2$N(H)-, -C(O)-O-, -$NHSO_2$NH-, -O-CO-,



and

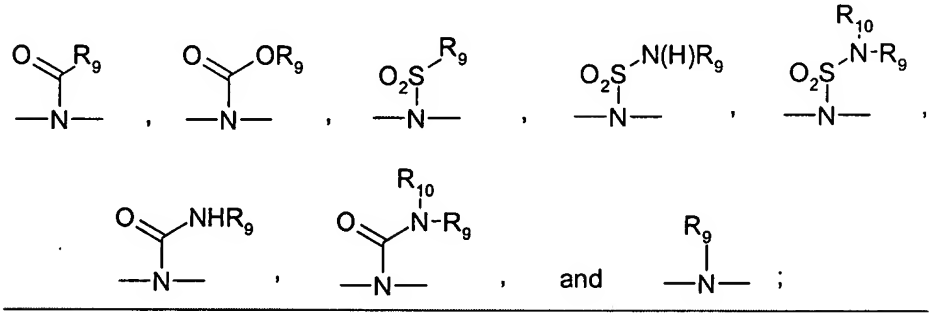
f) halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, carbamoyl, and carboxyl;

wherein

$R_{18}$ and $R_{19}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylaryl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, and $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxyaryl;

$R_{20}$ is selected from the group consisting of aryl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, and $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylaryl;

$R_7$, $R_8$, $R_9$ and $R_{10}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, aryl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, and $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylaryl; and wherein $R_7$ and $R_8$ may be taken together to form a ring having the formula $-(CH_2)_m-X-(CH_2)_n-$ bonded to the nitrogen atom to which $R_7$ and $R_8$ are attached, wherein m and n are, independently, 1, 2, 3, or 4; X is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, -O-, -S-, $-S(O_2)-$, -C(O)-, -CON(H)-, -NHC(O)-, -NHCON(H)-, $-NHSO_2-$, $-SO_2N(H)-$, -C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-, $-NHSO_2NH-$,



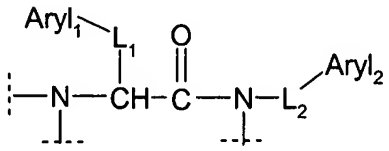
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein at least one of $Aryl_1$ and $Aryl_2$ is substituted with a lipophilic group of the formula $-Y-C_{1-6}-alkyl-NR_7R_8$.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the ligand(s) is(are) selected from advanced glycated end products (AGEs), S100/calgranulin/EN-RAGE, β-amyloid and amphoterin.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a disease state selected from the group consisting of acute and chronic inflammation, vascular permeability, nephropathy, atherosclerosis, retinopathy, Alzheimer's disease, erectile dysfunction, and tumor invasion and/or metastasis, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound comprising at least one moiety of the formula




wherein $L_1$ is a $C_1$-$C_4$ alkyl group and $L_2$ is a direct bond ~~are each a hydrocarbon group of from 1 to 6 carbons or a direct bond~~, and $Aryl_1$ and $Aryl_2$ are aryl, wherein each of $Aryl_1$ and $Aryl_2$ are substituted by at least one lipophilic group selected from the group consisting of

a) -Y-$C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

b) -Y-aryl;

c) -Y-$C_{1-6}$ alkylaryl;

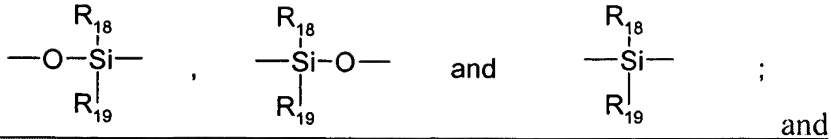
d) -Y-$C_{1-6}$-alkyl-$NR_7R_8$;

e) -Y-$C_{1-6}$-alkyl-W-$R_{20}$;

wherein

Y and W are, independently selected from the group consisting of

$-CH_2-$, -O-, -N(H), -S-, $SO_2$-, -CON(H)-, -NHC(O)-, -NHCON(H)-, $-NHSO_2-$, $-SO_2N(H)-$, -C(O)-O-, $-NHSO_2NH-$, -O-CO-,



and

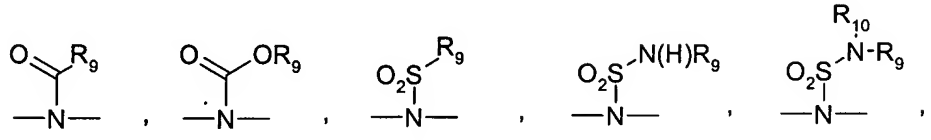
f) halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, carbamoyl, and carboxyl;

wherein

$R_{18}$ and $R_{19}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylaryl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, and $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxyaryl;

$R_{20}$ is selected from the group consisting of aryl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, and $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylaryl;

$R_7$, $R_8$, $R_9$ and $R_{10}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, aryl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, and $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylaryl; and wherein $R_7$ and $R_8$ may be taken together to form a ring having the formula $-(CH_2)_m-X-(CH_2)_n-$ bonded to the nitrogen atom to which $R_7$ and $R_8$ are attached, wherein m and n are, independently, 1, 2, 3, or 4; X is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, -O-, -S-, $-S(O_2)-$, -C(O)-, -CON(H)-, -NHC(O)-, -NHCON(H)-, $-NHSO_2-$, $-SO_2N(H)-$, -C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-, $-NHSO_2NH-$,



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

wherein at least one of $Aryl_1$ and $Aryl_2$ is substituted with a lipophilic group of the formula -Y-$C_{1-6}$-alkyl-$NR_7R_8$.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising administering to a subject in need thereof at least one adjuvant and/or additional therapeutic agent(s).

Claims 34-51 (Canceled).